

Attorney Docket No.: **13257.00044 (UMD-0084)**
Inventors: **Sciorra and Zimnoch**
Serial No.: **09/869,741**
Filing Date: **January 9, 2002**
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REMARKS

Claims 1-24 and 26-39 are pending in the instant application. Claims 1-24 and 28-39 have been rejected. Claims 26 and 27 have been objected to. Claims 1 and 27 have been amended. Claim 26 has been canceled. No new matter has been added by this amendment. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

I. Withdrawn Rejections

Applicants acknowledge the withdrawal of the previous rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-24 and 28-39 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. The Examiner suggests that the specification while being enabling for a viscous solution such as agar, agarose, methylcellulose, or polyacrylamide, does not reasonably provide enablement for all other viscous solutions such as blood, glycerol solution, or enzyme solution. It is suggested that viscous solutions encompass different solutions other than those defined in the present specification; however, the specification fails to provide enablement for these viscous solutions.

Applicants respectfully disagree. The specification at pages 23 and 24 clearly describes the viscous solution of the invention as "a polymeric material ... which can be manipulated (e.g., high concentrations of short carbohydrates)", such that one skilled in the art would readily appreciate the full scope of a viscous solution in accordance with the instant claims. However, in the

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interest of facilitating the prosecution of this application, Applicants have amended claim 1, as supported by the paragraph spanning pages 23 and 24 of the specification, to recite the language that is suggested by the Examiner to be enabled by the disclosure of the instant method. In light of this amendment, claim 26 has been canceled and claim 27 has been amended to be dependent from claim 1. Accordingly, the claims as amended meet the requirement of 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

Applicants believe that the foregoing comprises a full and complete response to the Office Action of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and subsequent allowance of the pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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